

11. (Amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 54, wherein a first continuous, closely contactable surface is formed over the entirety of a peripheral edge of a lower case forming the first outer shell constituent member; a second closely contactable surface is formed on a peripheral edge of a cover forming the second outer shell constituent member to be brought into close contact with the first closely contactable surface; and an engagement section removably engaging the peripheral edge of the lower case is formed integrally on the cover, the engagement section maintaining the case and the cover in a sealed state.

17. (Amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, including an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, and a cartridge case formed for housing the ink pack, wherein, when the ink cartridge is mounted to a recording apparatus, pressurized air is introduced into the cartridge case, the ink cartridge comprising:

first and second cases which constitute the cartridge case, said second case having a circumferential portion;

a flange section formed along an edge of an opening of the first case, wherein said circumferential portion of said second case covers said flange section; and

at least one lug-shaped member which is formed on the second case and engages with the flange section, thereby coupling the first and second cases together, wherein said lug-shaped member protrudes inward from an inner surface of said circumferential portion.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Application No. 09/765,411  
Attorney Docket: Q62798

NR 23. (Amended) The ink cartridge according to any one of claims 18 through 22, wherein the film member is sealed to the edge of the opening of the first case by heat welding.

43. (Amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, including an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, and a cartridge case formed for housing the ink pack, wherein, when the ink cartridge is mounted to <sup>the</sup> a recording apparatus, pressurized air is introduced into the cartridge case, the ink cartridge comprising:

NR 1st and second cases which constitute the cartridge case, said second case is formed from a planar section acting as a cover and a fold section formed integral with and perpendicular to the planar section;

at least one lug-shaped member which is formed on the fold section of the second case;

and

Sub E2 at least one slit formed through the second case at a location corresponding to the location of the lug-shaped member, said slit extending in a direction parallel to the fold section.

NR 47. (Amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus which supplies ink to a recording head by application of pressurized air produced by an air pressurization pump, the ink cartridge comprising:

an outer shell member constructed at least by a case and a heat-welding film;

an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, the ink pack being housed within the outer shell; and

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Application N . 09/765,411  
Attorney Docket: Q62798

a pressure chamber defined between the outer shell member and the ink pack and adapted to receive the pressurized air produced by the air pressurization pump.

48. (Amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 47, wherein the case and the heat-welding film are hermetically sealed together by heat-welding.

49. (Amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 48, wherein a continuous, substantially planar weld surface is formed over the entirety of a peripheral edge of the case, and said heat-welding film is thermally welded to the weld surface.

51. (Amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 50, wherein an engagement section removably engaging the peripheral edge of the case is formed integrally on a peripheral edge of the reinforcement member.

52. (Amended) The ink cartridge according to any one of claims 48 through 51, wherein reinforcement ribs are formed on the surface of the case, the surface at least partially defining the pressure chamber.

53. (Amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 47, further comprising a cover coupled to the case to cover said film, wherein an engagement section removably engaging a peripheral edge of the case is formed integrally on the cover.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Application No. 09/765,411  
Attorney Docket: Q62798

Please add the following new claim:

54. (New) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus which supplies ink to a recording head by application of pressurized air produced by an air pressurization pump, the ink cartridge comprising:

an outer shell member constructed at least by a first outer shell constituent member and a second outer shell constituent member that are coupled together so that said second outer shell constituent member is laid over an opening formed in a first surface of the first outer shell constituent member;

an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, the ink pack being housed within the outer shell;

an ink supply port of the ink pack and an air inlet port, which are disposed on a second surface of the first constituent member, the second surface being different from the first surface;  
and

a pressure chamber defined between the outer shell member and the ink pack and adapted to receive the pressurized air produced by the air pressurization pump.